VISION COMICS
9 JAN 1997
$2.50 US

FOR MATURE READERS ONLY

Katmandu

KATMANDU ISSN 1088-1131 $2.50 US / $3.75 CANADA

TERRIE SMITH '96

20/20

WHAT'S NEW AND NEWS

With the Bankruptcy of Marvel, the comics industry is in a tizzy! It's very difficult for small press titles such as this one to stay afloat, especially in the wake of such large hits as we took in our Jan. orders, which were "somewhat less than happy", to turn a phrase. As a result, we are slowing our title production schedules on a couple of books, including The Hollow Earth, Savage Funnies and others to a quarterly or even semi-annual basis, while we wait and see what the comic market does.

Vision is making a big push into the book and magazine market, with a line of new anthropomorphic novels written in a shared world created by Lyn Abbey, the creator of Thieves World, and the Savage World of GOR, a full color magazine for international distribution, based on the 27 novels of GOR by John Norman.

Vision is also making inroads into the Animation industry with an innovative series of science-fiction show proposals for the 1998 television season.

We welcome the newest addition to our ranks, Kathryn Bolinger, a former disciple of Barry Windsor-Smith. Her first Vision work can be seen in the wonderful digital coloring in Issue #1 of BEATRIX, which is available now, in January.

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

We've done the big comic conventions before; primarily to boost awareness of the company. It's our experience that this doesn't really help us, no matter how large our displays are. The reason for this is that anthropomorphics, which our lines primarily consist of, is a limited market. And those that do like it seek it out -- so what's the benefit of attending the major comic conventions? None.

However, some of the upcoming cons that focus on anthropomorphics are growing and look to be good ones. A new convention, just starting up, is listed below. We've heard good things about it, and encourage folks to attend. If you're into anthropomorphics, this looks to be a lot of fun.

ALBANY ANTHROCON
HELD JULY 3-6, 1997,
IN ALBANY, NEW YORK

FOR MORE INFO, WRITE TO:

Albany Anthrocon
Thornwood Enterpritses
Post Office Box 1563
Troy NY 12182-1563

EMAIL: aac@wizvax.net
WWW: http://www.wizvax.net/aac

KATMANDU, Vol. 1, No. 9, January 1997. ISSN #1088-1131
Published by Vision Comics, a division and DBA of Med Systems Company, Darrell Benvenuto, President and Publisher. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: Med Systems Company, Post Office Box 580009, Flushing, NY, 11358-0009. Toll-Free US Phone: (800) 667-7943 or (516) 328-6900, Fax: (516) 328-6989. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT OTHER MAILING OFFICES. All stories and artwork are Copyright (c) 1996 Carole Curtis. All other added material is TM and Copyright (c) 1996 Med Systems Company. All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form now known or to be developed, without the express written consent of at least one of the aforementioned copyright holders or the publisher.
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KATMANDU, VISION COMICS, POST OFFICE BOX 580009, FLUSHING, NY, 11358-0009.
PRINTED IN CANADA

KATMANDU

WHEN WARRIORS DIE

Conclusion

IN LISKA'S TIME, THE VELITE TRIBES NEAR WHITE RIVER UNITED TO STOP SLAVING RAIDS BY MINERS. LEAHTRAH'S ERA, THORIN HAS BEEN ORDERED TO STOP VIOLENCE IN THE SAME REGION. AFTER AN EXPLOSION, THORIN HAS AN AMAZING MEETING.

I *SAID* I'M LISKA MITSEL-EMAN. WHO ARE *YOU*, LONGTOOTH?

LEAHTRAH'S ANCESTRESS?

YOU'RE THE MATE OF RIAL HADA-RO-SEG?

STORY: CAROLE CURTIS
PENCILS: TERRIE SMITH
INKS: SHANE FISHER
LAYOUTS: MIKE CURTIS
LETTERS: TED VOLLMER

YES, HE *WAS* MY MATE. ARE YOU WITH THE SLAVERS?

I AM THORIN LEONIUS AND I FIGHT *AGAINST* THEM. I MUST GET BACK TO MY MEN.

HE'S SOMEWHERE OVER HERE. FIND HIM!

I'M HONORED TO MEET LISKA MITSEL-EMAN-

-BUT I HAVE TO STAY FREE AND REJOIN *MY COMMAND.*

WAIT, TALL ONE!

THERE'S GOOD COVER, IF YOU FOLLOW THAT RAVINE, YOU'LL COME TO A HIDDEN CAVE BY THE RIVER.

THE PLACE WHERE YOU HID PYNDAN? IT'S *PERFECT!*

THANK YOU, HONORED ANCESTRESS.

YOU ARE NOT OF MY CLAN OR VILLE. WHY DO YOU NAME ME SO?

MY WIFE IS FROM YOUR LINE. EITHER I'M DEAD OR YOU'RE A DREAM.

I'M A DREAM.

REMEMBER THE RAVINE AND THE CAVE WHEN YOU WAKE. TAIL HIGH, WARRIOR!

TAIL HIGH, MOTHER LISKA.

THERE'S THE RAVINE, *AND* MY DRIVER!

IT'S THE LIEUTENANT! I THOUGHT THE EXPLOSION GOT HIM.

HA! HE'S TOO TOUGH FOR THAT!

SIR, RECON'S ACCOUNTED FOR ALMOST EVERYONE. PELOS, MASTERS, AND LANYAN ARE CONFIRMED DEAD. WINKLOW AND KILMAS ARE MISSING.

GOOD WORK.

GATHER!

WE LEAVE IN THREE GROUPS OF FIVE. MARTIN AND GREENAW LEAD. YOU FOUR WITH ME.

TAKE DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS. AFTER WE PASS THE "MINERS", GO FOR BASE CAMP.

THEY'RE *NOT* MINERS?

NO, MERCENARIES, HEAVILY ARMED. THE LEADER IS NAMED WILMONT.

HE'S ONE OF THE MINE OWNERS.

IF OUR TROOPS MOVE IN FAST, WE CAN BREAK THIS BEFORE THE SITUATION BLOWS UP!

LET'S GO!

HIGHLAND PLAINS- TIME OF LISKA MITSEL-EMAN

HE DIED BRAVELY, CHILDREN. BE PROUD OF YOUR FATHER.

PATIENCE, CHILD. WE'LL SPEAK TO LISKA.

MOTHER SANNA, WHAT WILL WE DO?

-LISKA, I NEED TO FEED OUR KITTENS

AHHH!

GO, SHAYGIN, I NEED TO TALK TO MARKREE.

MARKREE-

LISKA, I *KNOW* WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY.

I HAVE EIGHT MOUTHS TO FEED.

AND YOU WANT TO TAKE IN TWO *MORE*.

SISTER, WHEN RIAL AND PYNDAN KIDNAPPED YOU, THEY GAVE NO THOUGHT TO ME.

NOW YOU WANT ME TO FEED HIS CHILDREN?

WILL YOU *HELP*, OR NOT?

OF COURSE, SISTER.

GOOD...

WE'LL HAVE TO HUNT FOR PANKA AND PYNDAN, TOO.

WHAT?!

WHEN WILL I HAVE TIME TO SEE MY *WIFE?*

WHEN PYNDAN'S WELL. I HAVE TO SEE WASIL NOW.

WASIL?

SHAYGIN NEEDS HELP WITH THE CHILDREN AND YOU BOTH BELONG IN OUR LODGE.

I NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHAT YOU AND RIAL WERE TO EACH OTHER, BUT I THANK YOU-

-FOR HIM, AND HIS CHILDREN.

AGAIN YOU MUST LEAD OUR CLAN.

WISSA, WILL YOU GO WITH MOTHER SANNA? WE NEED TO VISIT PYNDAN.

SORRY ABOUT YOUR MATE.

THANK YOU, HESTA.

HOW IS PYNDAN?

I DON'T KNOW. THE TRIP WAS HARD ON HIM.

PANKA'S A GOOD HEALER. LET'S GO.

WILL YOU COME IN?

NO, I'LL SEE HIM LATER.

PYNDAN, YOU *NEED* TO DRINK THIS-

DON'T TALK, JUST BRING THEM MEAT. FALL CAMP IS SET, SO HE HAS TIME TO HEAL.

LET *HESTA* KEEP HIM COMPANY.

IMPUDENT *KITTEN!*

ENOUGH, MARKREE!

I'M ASKING THEM TO JOIN *MY* FAMILY!

GO BACK TO ELISHAA IF YOU WANT TO ARGUE!

I JUST DON'T SEE WHY *WE* HAVE TO TAKE HIM IN!

IF THEY CANNOT SETTLE THIS THEMSELVES, WE'LL ASK PYNDAN AND PANKA TO JOIN *OUR* LODGE UNTIL HE'S HEALED.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK.

I LEARNED *MUCH* FROM MOTHER SANNA, AND WE HAVE SUPPLIES! WE DO NOT *NEED* YOU!

MARKREE!

HE STOOD WITH YOU AT YOUR MANHOOD CEREMONY!

I HAVE KINRIGHTS WITH OTHERS. WE WILL NOT STARVE.

AND YOUR FEROCIOUS SISTER!

I CRY PEACE WITH YOU, PYNDAN-

I STILL MISS RIAL.

SO DO I. HE WAS CHILDHOOD PLAYMATE, YOUTHFULL FRIEND, AND TRUE BROTHER OF MY ADULTHOOD. I WILL NEVER KNOW SUCH COMPANIONSHIP AGAIN.

NOR I. HE WAS MY MATE AND LOVE---

CHIEF POWNETKEE'S YOUNGEST SON HAS BEEN LOOKING IN PANKA'S DIRECTION. HE'S NOT ALONE EITHER.

-POOR LISKA-

MOTHER SANNA STILL GRIEVES, AND WASIL IS AFRAID FOR HER KITS.

I FEEL SO USELESS...

HOW'S THE GATHERING GOING?

ALMOST FINISHED.

PANKA IS A BLESSING, SHE'S OLD ENOUGH TO DIRECT THE CHILDREN, *AND* YOUNG ENOUGH TO KEEP UP WITH THEM. THEA COLLECTS HERBS EACH DAY. DARMIN AND TALWIN ADD FISH TO THE DRYING RACKS.

SHE'S GROWN INTO SUCH A BEAUTY. IT'S A GOOD THING YOUR LEGS WILL BE HEALED BY SPRING, HER SUITORS WILL RUN YOU RAGGED.

I KNOW!

HUSBAND?

SHAYGIN, ARE YOU BECOMING SHY?

IT'S COLD. I'M KEEPING THE FURS WARM FOR YOU.

YOUR BREASTS WERE LARGE *BEFORE!* AND NOW...

FROM FEEDING *YOUR* KITTENS.

MY HUSBAND, DO I PLEASE YOU?

YES, YOU DO. WHY?

WHEN I BECAME YOUR WIFE, REMEMBER HOW I PULLED YOU INTO OUR TENT AFTER THE CEREMONY?

YES.

I WAS *SO* PROUD OF MY HUSBAND, THAT YOU WERE *MINE*, BUT I KNEW YOU HAD NEEDS I COULD NOT FILL.

HE LOVES YOU. HE ALWAYS HAS I ACCEPTED RIAL WITH YOU. I CAN ACCEPT PYNDAN.

IT'S TOO SOON-

Spring

AHHH.

AW- THEY'RE SO CUTE TOGETHER-

HE LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE RIAL!

AND YOURS LIKE LISKA.

SHAYGIN, HAVE YOU SEEN PYNDAN?

HE'S AT THE CORRAL.

OH, HUSBAND. YOUR NEW CLOTHES LOOK *SO NICE.*

I'M GLAD MARKREE'S SETTLED AND I DON'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH THAT!

BRAGGART! YOU WERE JUST LUCKY. WHAT IF HE'D BEEN A GIRL?

I'D HAVE LOOKED AS WORN OUT AS YOU. HAS SHE SELECTED ONE YET?

NO-

-BUT SHE'S NARROWED IT DOWN TO THREE... POWNETKEE'S SON GARETH- THE FLUTE PLAYER, MISKLONI- AND WILOAM.

GOOD CHOICES, THOUGH WILOAM IS A LITTLE TOO QUICK WITH HIS FISTS.

WITH SPRING HESTA WILL TRAVEL AGAIN.

YOU SHOULD LOOK FORWARD TO THAT-

HAVE YOU THOUGHT MORE ABOUT MY REQUEST?

IT SEEMS TOO SOON, BUT IT IS LONELY WHEN YOU GO TO YOUR TENT EACH NIGHT.

IT IS ALSO LONELY FOR ME.

I HAVE LOVED YOU SINCE BEFORE THE FIGHT OVER THE WATERSKIN.

THAT LONG? I HAD NO IDEA, THOUGH I ALWAYS ENJOYED YOUR VISITS

YES-

YOU WERE FIRST SLAVE, THEN *BED* SLAVE, THEN MATE TO MY COUSIN-BROTHER. HOW COULD I *EVER* TELL YOU?

I- HUNGER FOR YOU IN THE DARKNESS, HOPING YOU WILL CHOOSE TO JOIN WITH ME.

PYNDAN, I LOVE YOU ALSO, BUT IT IS *NOT* THE LOVE I HAD FOR RIAL. I'M OLDER... AND SO *MANY* THINGS HAVE CHANGED IN MY LIFE-

-CAN YOU ACCEPT ME AS I AM? AS MATE, NOT WIFE?

I HAVE ALWAYS LOVED THE SPIRIT AND SOUL OF YOU. THAT WILL NEVER CHANGE.

YOU KNOW ABOUT THE CURSE ON MY FAMILY LINE?

YES.

CAN YOU ACCEPT *ME* AS I AM? AS MATE AND FATHER TO YOUR CHILDREN WITH RIAL? WE MAY *NEVER* HAVE KITS OF OUR OWN, AND I WOULD NOT SEE YOU SAD.

I *HAVE* FOUR. IF THE GODDESS DOES NOT BLESS US WITH MORE, THAT IS HOW IT SHALL BE.

I ENTRUST THEE WITH MY LIFE AND THE LIVES OF THOSE I LOVE.

AND I ENTRUST THEE.

HIGHLAND PLAINS- PRESENT DAY

WILMONT? WITH THE IRON ORE CONSORTIUM?

YESSIR. A MERC LET IT SLIP. WE ESCAPED AND REPORTED TO BASE CAMP.

"OUR TROOPS PROCEEDED TO THE CONSORTIUM'S OFFICE, TAKING WILMONT AND OTHERS PRISONER."

"WITH THEIR CAPTURE, AND LOSS OF THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE, THE MERCS SURRENDERED. I BELIEVE THAT WILL END THE VIOLENCE IN THE AREA."

IT SHOULD BRING AN END TO ORE SHORTAGES BLAMED ON LOCAL BANDITS AS WELL. GOOD WORK, LIEUTENANT.

SIR, MY FAMILY IS ARRIVING IN A FEW MINUTES. IF I MAY-

OF COURSE, LIEUTENANT. DISMISSED.

THANK YOU, SIR!

MOTHER! I SEE DADDY!

DADDY, DID YOU RESCUE THE MINERS LIKE GAMMA LISKA?

TELL US ABOUT THE FIGHT!

RUN AWAY, LITTLE KITTENS. YOUR FATHER AND I HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL TO DISCUSS.

IF IT'S ABOUT THE CLINICS, THEY'RE ALREADY BEING SET UP. ONE IN THE FOOTHILLS AND ONE ON THE RIVER PLAIN. EACH WILL HAVE SUPPLIES AND STAFFING TWO DAYS A WEEK.

NO, MY DARLING. ALTHOUGH...

WE MAY NEED THEM IN SEVEN MONTHS.

?

I WASN'T SURE BEFORE YOU LEFT-

BUT WE *WILL* HAVE KITS BEFORE YOUR NEXT BIRTHDAY.

THORIN?

KITS!

BABIES!

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE MORE BABIES!

SIT DOWN!

SIT DOWN!

THE END OF "WHEN WARRIORS DIE".

Katmandu RETURNS IN TWO MONTHS WITH

"CURSE OF THE BLOOD"

Katmandu

Changes
part 2

STORY, PENCILS, LETTERS:
TED VOLLMER
INKS:
SHANE FISHER

YOU SAY "LETS GO HUNTING". I SAY "LOOKS LIKE RAIN". YOU SAY "IT HASN'T RAINED FOR DAYS".

"THEN WE'RE DUE" I SAY. YOU SAY "IT WON'T RAIN".

GUESS WHAT, RIAL?

IT'S...

WHAT?

LOOK THERE, A DEAD PACK LIZARD!

LOOKS LIKE A CAMP GOT ATTACKED!

EVERYTHING'S DESTROYED! WHY WOULD SOMEONE DO THIS?

POOR BEAST'S THROAT'S SLASHED. I DON'T SEE ANY OTHER BODIES...

...EVERYONE MUST HAVE GOT AWAY.

WHAT DID YOU FIND, KASIL?

GODDESS!

A LONGTOOTH-

I'M NOT FOND OF THEM MYSELF...

...BUT *NO* FEMALE DESERVES SUCH A DEATH.

YOU'VE SEEN DEATH BEFORE, PYNDAN.

NOT LIKE THAT-

WHO*EVER* DID THIS IS MIND-SICK. AND LESS THAN A DAY FROM OUR VILLAGE!

GRROOPAANN

WHAT'S THAT?

SOUNDS LIKE SOMEBODY'S STILL ALIVE!

KASIL, STAY WITH LIZARDS! IT MIGHT BE A TRAP!

ANOTHER LONGTOOTH!

ALIVE?

BARELY-

WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM HERE.

WHY NOT?

YOU KNOW WHAT HIS KIND DID TO OUR VILLAGE- TO MY *SISTER!*

LET HIM DIE.

THOSE RAIDERS ARE LONG DEAD. *HE* HAS DONE US NO HARM.

HMPH-

CAN WE MOVE HIM?

--NO, THE KNIFE WOULD SLIP AND KILL HIM.

WE NEED TO BRING A HEALER *HERE.*

KASIL, LEAVE PYNDAN'S LIZARD. YOU AND I WILL FETCH MOTHER SANNA.

PYNDAN, I CAN'T LEAVE KASIL ALONE WITH HIM-

-I KNOW.

-SORRY.

DO WHAT YOU CAN, KEEP HIM WARM AND GIVE HIM WATER IF HE WAKES. SEE YOU BY SUN-UP.

WELL, STRANGER, IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG NIGHT.

DAWN

PLEASE- *COUGH*
MY WIFE- WHERE'S MY...
COUGH -*COUGH*

QUIET...

...HELP WILL BE HERE...

PYNDAN!

...NOW!

HE'S STILL ALIVE. DID YOU BRING MOTHER SANNA?

WELLLL-

BUT, YOU SAID-

I MAY NOT HAVE SANNA'S YEARS, PYNDAN...

...BUT I *DO* KNOW *SOMETHING* ABOUT HEALING.

WISSA!

TO BE CONTINUED...

From the Scratching Post

Carole Curtis
P.O. Box 2452
Conway, AR 72032

Hello, everyone--ConFurence East was fun this year! Met lots of people and visited with old friends. Did a panel on how to write for comics; the gist is: WRITE! There, that didn't hurt you a bit. I can hardly wait for ConFurence 8. We get to visit with people who help make our comics, and it's fun to talk over the changes of the past year. Hope to see more of y'all at ConFurence--truly the best convention of the year. We also sponsor Riddle's Elephant Breeding Farm and Wildlife Sanctuary here in Arkansas. Michael and I went out to visit Dec. 7, and had a wonderful time. No, Mr. Pakderm was not there, but we did meet Betty Boop--known as Booper.

Update on the church for Shanda Fantasy Arts: We have no positive credit, so can't get a loan. We are looking for 1000 people to loan us $39 for up to 8 1/2 years. You must send an age statement and permanent address so we can return it. You will get a personalized copy of the Kat reprint, and be added to the mailing list for updates and goodies during the period.

Now, on to letters...edited, but I tried to make VERY sure that words and the spirit were kept.

OH, CAROLE! You've killed Rial!!! This leads to interesting problems with Pyndan, Hesta and Liska. I guess I'll have to wait. Damn it, I love it when comics do this! I've been a collector for some time, read Marvel, DC Image, etc. Things changed--comics, companies, prices, and (those) few special titles changed and vanished. I don't like today's comic market--save a few who've managed to sparkle and surprise--or the Diamond monopoly. They use/abuse and it's fans who suffer!! I've never felt used by those who work on Katmandu or Shanda. You treat your readers with a respect (and) honesty that is rare to most of the industry. You have earned my respect and admiration for the work you've done, the stories you've told, and the characters you've created.

I DO have a few questions...when can we expect to have the Kat Handbook? **(It's being worked on NOW, I hope to have it ready for ConFurence 8, but there are many things/characters still in the works.)** What types of cat exist on Katmandu? **(ALL FELINES.)** Native Americans use Animal Spirits to guide and advise them. Does Liska's tribe have anything similar? **(Yes, totems are birds, lizards, fish, insects and there is a Great Spirit who is female and encompasses everything of the cycle of life--birth, death, the seasons, change, everything cycling and recycling throughout the ages. Sound familiar? It should, almost all religions attempt to explain our purpose, as ephemerals, in the eons-long cycle of our planet and the heavens.)**

SLAN LEAT A RIAL and a safe journey. You will be remembered. Tails High? Damned right!!
Noel Williamson -- Dublin, Ireland

DEAR CAROLE, I collect Katmandu; I admire Leahtrah and Thorin, but never (thought) of Leah's ancestors or Native American culture until I took a History of California class & began to understand. I fell in love with those characters. I was disappointed Rial died--my favorite after Liska and Pyndan. **(He will be back in other stories. Remember, LEAHTRAH is telling FAMILY stories, and time is always flexible when passing on oral tradition.)** I hope Thorin is all right. I glanced at a copy of Kat 10 Mike Curtis **(my husband and SHANDA creator!)** sent. Whew!

Questions--will you send the back issue form? **(You can order copies from us OR from Vision Comics.)** Are rats & mice the enemies in L & T's time? **(No, T has rats and mice under his command, & he's fighting felines in "When Warriors Die".)** Are you a Native American? **(I'm your standard American mix. Scots, Irish, English, Creek Indian from Georgia, etc. Seriously, anyone who's family has been here more than three generations traveling up, down, & across settling the land is going to have MANY more cultures included. Something to enjoy & be aware of; but take pride in what you have accomplished, not just your ancestors. I met a lady in Beaumont, Texas named Frances Stewart. She is almost certainly a cousin, a few times removed, because we could trace some of the same names and states. She is also Black. People will always try to feel better at other's expense, & everything has been considered beyond the pale at one time or another. Red hair's thought to be ugly and unfortunate in Germany. A German lady with the most glorious shade of red hair told me this one day. The trick is to pick those things that are really important to you and stand up for them, and ignore or work around the destructive choices. This life is all we have, & it's our duty to make the world better for those who will come after.)**
SHEILA WHEADON -- Fremont, CA

DEAR MIKE, CAROLE, & EVERYONE ELSE: Poor Rial! For whatever comfort it'll provide his widow (Wasil), he died nobly--fighting for someone else's freedom. How does their society take care of widows and orphans? **(The wife marries her deceased husband's brother.)** Are all equally responsible for their care or, since there is still a warrior in the lodge, is it primarily Liska's responsibility"? **(Liska's case is somewhat different & stands outside the usual ways. If Rial had a brother, Wasil would marry him. Because he didn't, family members extend kinrights to Wasil and her cubs. Wasil has closer kinright with Liska since Rial and Liska were mates. Liska also has double kinright with Markree because he is her brother & he married Elishaa. It's like two brothers marrying two sisters though Shaygin and Elishaa are not related. Pyndan also has kinright through his relationship with Rial & his sponsorship of Markree. This is why it is important to settle Markree's anger over his forced abandonment when Liska was kidnapped. Old wounds may stay buried, but the hurt continues until they are confronted and can heal.)**
Stay Furry, BROCK HOAGLAND -- Hazen, ND

DEAR KATMANDU: This is the first time I have ever read your book. I accidentally found it at a comic retail store called BEYOND THE PALE (unsolicited plug for them!) I found the story to be very exciting and adventurous. Very unusual concept and it's one that should catch on very quickly. **(This is the 3rd-4th year of publishing KAT!)** The interaction between your characters is very realistic and the story flowed smoothly. My praise goes out to Terrie Smith on pencils and Mark Barnard on inks. The characters are cartoony and this makes it fun, they have a story to tell that will keep you in suspense. It was nice to have 2 stories. "When Warriors Die" is haunting and kept me glued. The action was great, placed in all the right spots, now I'm left with a cliffhanger.

"The Gate", another riveting mystic story. I totally agree, many of us are unwilling to take that step into the unknown due to our own fears! Two remarkable stories by Carole Curtis and Richard Thatcher!! Storytelling taken to the next level!! I also enjoyed SHANDA THE PANDA too!! Congratulations on your fine creations & I hope everything works out for you with Diamond.
PAUL DALE ROBERTS --Sacramento, CA

GREETINGS! I wanted to congratulate you on a wonderful 1st issue of NEW HORIZONS. I was particularly impressed by "Memories of the Morphing Period". The whole concept of a 'morphing virus' that could indiscriminately change people into animal morphs is fantastic! Very well written, wonderful artwork (by Carla Speed McNeil). This story creates a complex situation with the 'Creator S Virus'. Problems of intolerance, racism, or 'specism', complications in government, businesses, every aspect of daily life...the mind boggles!

BILL SCHMICKLE --Silverfur@aol.com

DEAR MIKE AND CAROLE, I wanted to thank you both for making (our) day together in Arkansas enjoyable. It allowed me to get to know you better as friends. Gorgeous Terrie Smith cover for NEW HORIZONS. Mary Hanson-Roberts art--'Weddings'. Fantastic drawings of the Seneschal, Liska,

Shaygin, Markree & Elishaa. The faces superb & wardrobe great! Liska & Shaygin's WEDDING CEREMONY! Thank you, Carole, for sharing this with me & all your readers.

'The One Lioness' art by KATMANDU's new artist Shauntae Howard , inks Shane Fisher, letters Ted Vollmer, story written by Mr. ConFurence himself, Mark Merlino. A fun story--gorgeous work.

'The Man who Collected Yesterday' a very cartoony offering from Chas and Polly Graf. **(Carl Gafford actually did this story. The supposed authors are a tribute to the creator of Wonder Woman, who ALSO invented the polygraph. Makes you wonder where she really put that lasso!)** The Goopy Putty, Mr. Robot, as well as Moon Mouse herself all look very nice.

'Different Worlds' is a sweet story, Mike. Chris Berdoz's artwork really brings out the feel & seems perfect for telling this tale. What is John Nunnemacher's part? **(John did characters based on Michael's pencils & breakdowns, but was unavailable for work and Chris replaced him.)**

KATMANDU #8: Terrie has drawn a triumphant Rial for the cover. This is the first non-black Vision Comics background & I like the change! Still looks like problems with printing. Inks way too heavy, obscuring detail. Something puzzles me: panel 2--jeep moving, panel 3--jeep stopped. Why? **(They shot its poor little engine dead. The mercs had to get Thorin and his info.)**

Back to Liska Mitsel-Eman's time. Khamy does what almost every male baby does when the diaper is removed--he urinates! Bruna's laughing as she says "Stop that, Khamy!" Buxton's expression goes well with his "Yuck!" of distaste. The best expression is on the unnamed girl. **(Wonderful art by Terrie from Michael's pencil layouts!)** In the medicine lodge, Markree tells a warrior they've been calling Rial 'Stout Lance'. A justifiable smile of pride (and embarrassment! Males tend to be a lot more raucous about their and others prowess when females aren't about. I'm sure he's been teased unmercifully off panel.) Rial notices Pyndan's quiet, Pyndan replies he isn't thinking about Hesta. **(Pyndan is thinking about Liska, and regrets that he will never have what Rial has so fully--mate, children & wife. See 'Curse of the Blood' , next story arc. Because of the hazards of daily life --not to mention raiding!--his line has dwindled to himself, Panka & a few cousins.)** Significant scene showing Pyndan & Liska's tails gently twined. **(Pyndan deeply values those he calls friend, male and female; he would never do anything that would disturb that, but touching is a normal and comforting thing, not a seduction. They have made peace with each other.)** Boyce Gerald Kline, Jr.

✧Shanda Fan Mart✧

Cloisonné Pins NEW! Liska or Shanda — ea $6.00

Adults only material--age statement required

Katmandu: the XXX Files

#1 "Midnight at the Oasis"	Thorin & Leahtrah	Art: Smith Story: C. Curtis Inks: Barnard	$6.00
#2 NEW!		Art: T. Vollmer Story: C. Curtis	$6.00

Katmandu: Velites and Hoplites reprinting AP #1-3 with new material 80 pages — $8.95

Shanda the Panda: the XXX Files

#1 "Menagerie a Trois"	Shanda dreams	Art & Story: Curtis Inks: Barnard	$5.00
#2 "Summer of Love"	Yoyo's conception	Art and Story: Curtis	$5.00
#3 "Close Encounters"	Terri and Tanya	Art: Clark Story: Curtis	$6.00
#4 "Afternoon Delight"	Pandora and Rainbow	Art: Garcia Story: Curtis	$6.00
#5 "Something in the Air"	Shanda, Terri, & Double R	Art: Clark Story: Curtis	$6.00
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Other Books for All Ages

Giant Shanda Animal

#1 1996	48 pages	$4.95
#2 1997	48 pages	$4.95

New Horizons #1 Anthology with Mary Hanson-Roberts, Carla Speed McNeil, others — $4.95

Shandaverse Encyclopedia ALL NEW! 4th Edition — $15.00

To Order: Send check or money order in U.S. funds, plus $1 postage (except Shandaverse--$2) to:
Mike and Carole Curtis P.O. Box 2452 Conway, AR 72032

"THE NOT SO SECRET ORIGIN OF BEATRIX FARMER"

BEATRIX FARMER IS A NORMAL, EVERYDAY GIRL. SHE HAS THE USUAL TROUBLES AT HOME AND AT WORK. TODAY, SHE WAKES TO FIND SHE HAS THE FLU. BUT THE DAY WILL ONLY GET WORSE... **MUCH WORSE.**

RING RING RING

UNK ACK?

ONK SNUF HORK

HI, BEA.

ER, HOW YA DOIN'?

OOK ACK GAK

I'M GLAD YOU FEEL AS GOOD AS YOU **LOOK.**

YOU'RE UP TO SOME BAD NEWS, THEN. RALPH'S RUN OFF WITH PEGGY...

MY COFFEE'S COLD.

MILK

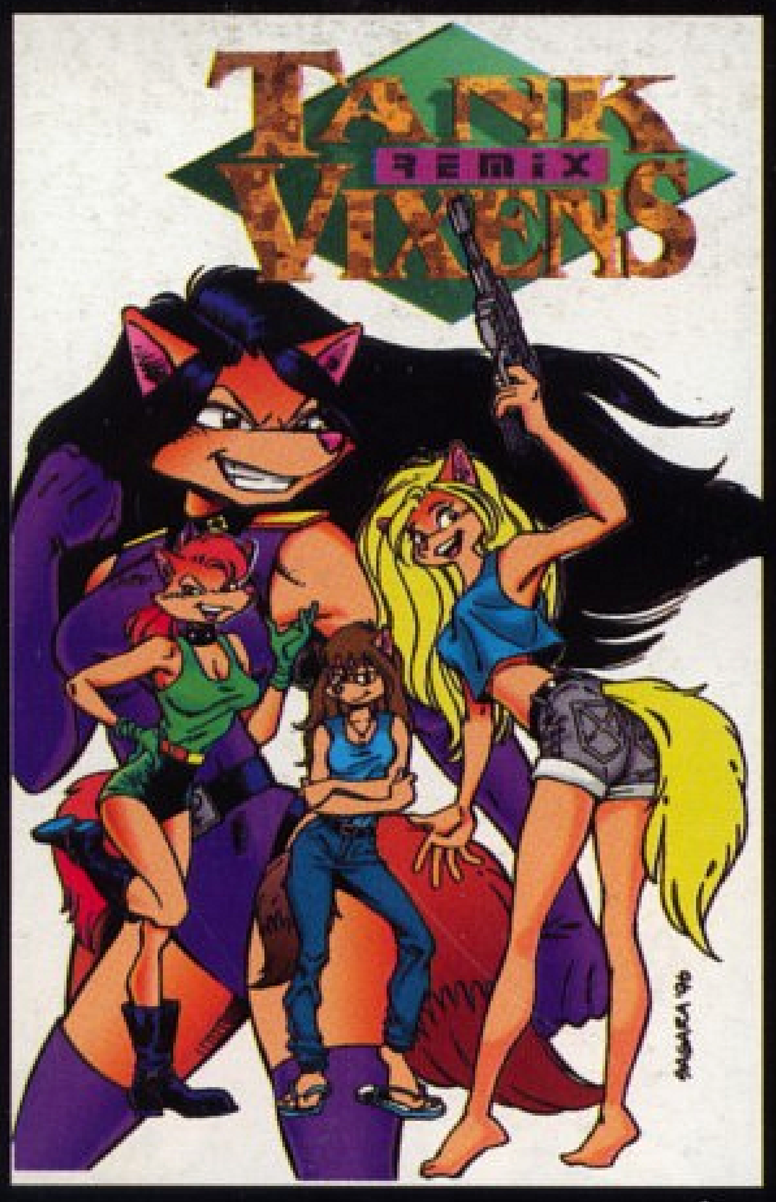
NOC NOC NOC NOC

OUCH

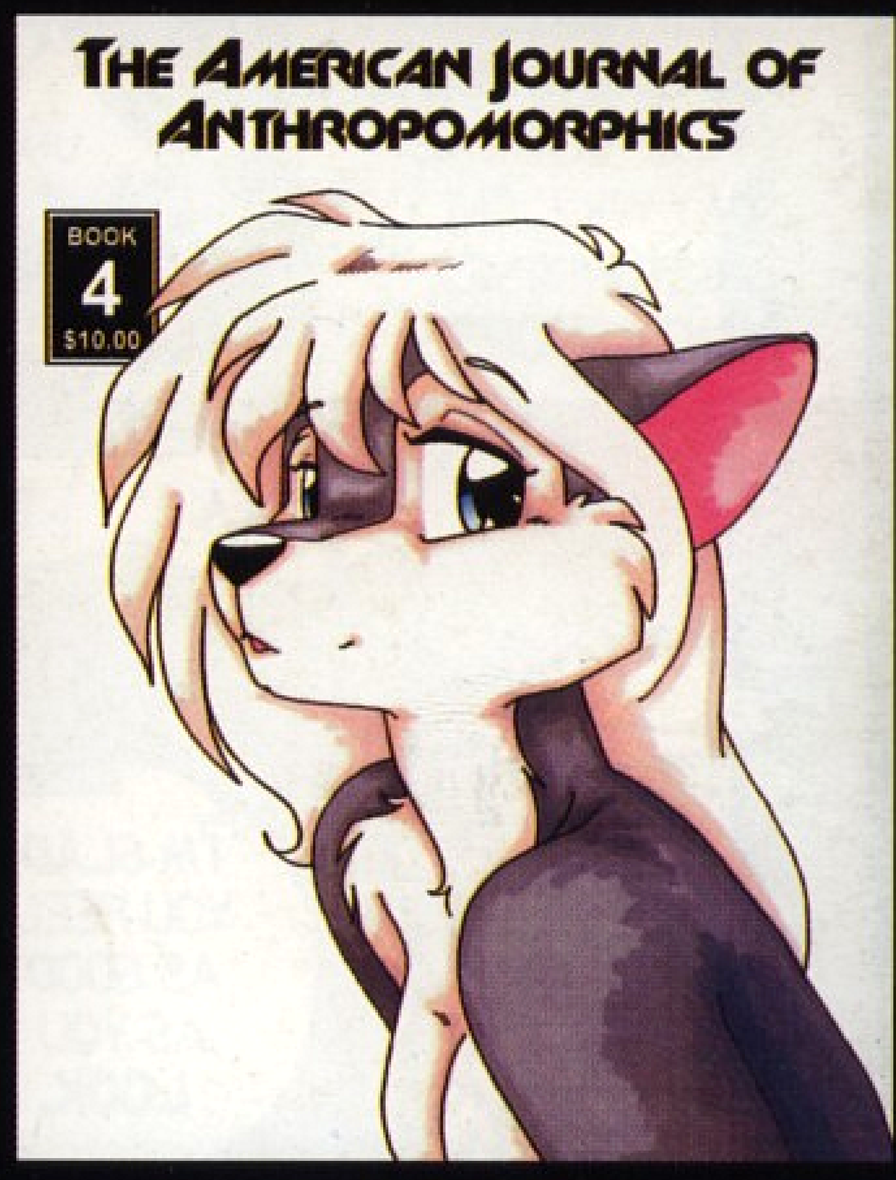
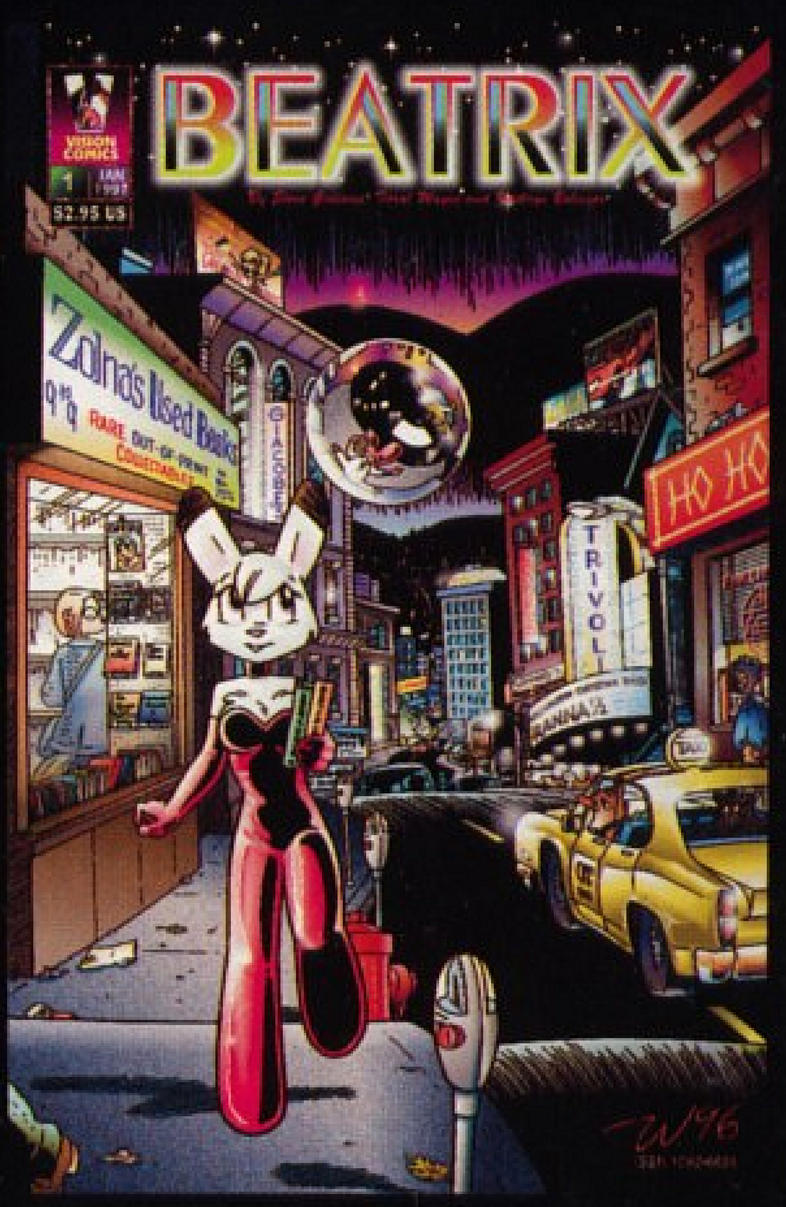
UM... I GUESS IT'S NOT A GOOD TIME TO MENTION MR. TURGEDSON, THE THE LANDLORD, SAYS HE DIDN'T GET OUR RENT CHECK. AND...

... YOU'RE LATE FOR WORK.

NO! NO!



JUST A FEW OF THE LATEST TITLES FROM

VISION COMICS

PUTTING THE FUN BACK IN FUNNY ANIMALS!